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THE GENEALOGY

OF

WM. THORNTON PARKER, A. M., M. D.

OF BOSTON, MASS.

BORN. JANUARY 8th, 1818.
DIED. MARCH 12th. 1855.

Contributed by his son,
WM. THORNTON PARKER, M. D.,
NEWPORT, R. I.

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GENEALOGY OF

WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER, A. M., M. D.

Contributed by his son, W. THORNTON PARKER, M. D., Newport, R. I.

WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER was the son of Dr. Benjamin Parker. He graduated at Dartmouth, in 1838; studied medicine with Dr. A. L. Pierson, of Salem, and received his medical degree at Harvard, 1841. Soon after receiving his medical degree, Dr. Parker settled in South Boston where he established himself in an excellent practice and made for himself an honorable reputation as a skilful physician and surgeon and a devout and consistent Churchman. He was a man of great ability, both in his profession and in art—his anatomical atlas being a work of remarkable beauty and professional accuracy. He married Miss Clementina Morse, daughter of Hon. Elijah Morse, of Boston, and granddaughter of William Jackson, Esq., M. D., of London, England, son of William Jackson, one of the Aldermen of London. The marriage took place at Trinity Church, Boston, January 8th, 1845, Rev. Joseph Clinch officiating. He died at Jamaica Plain, Mass., March 12th, 1855, aged 37 years. (See New Eng. Gen. Register, July, 1887—p. 263 et seq.)

Dr. Parker's genealogy can be traced as follows: His first ancestor in America was Abraham Parker, who early settled in Woburn, Mass., being taxed there September 8th, 1645, the first tax payer in the country on record. He was made freeman the same year. He married November 18th, 1644,

Miss Rose Whitlock, by whom he had the following children:—

1. Ann, born October 29, 1645.
2. John, born October 30, 1647.
3. Abraham, born November 8, 1650; died 1651.
4. Abraham, born August, 1652.
5. Mary, born November 20, 1655.
6. Moses.
7. Isaac, born September 13, 1660.
8. Eliza, born April 10, 1663.
9. Lydia, } born March 24, 1669.
10. Jacob, }

Mr. Parker died August 12, 1689.

Mrs. Parker died November 13, 1691.

Abraham, son of the above, married July 15th, 1682, Miss Martha Livermore, and removed to Chelmsford, Mass., and later to Bradford where, on the 19th of February, 1702, he was received into the Church, with Martha his wife, by letters of admission from the Church at Chelmsford.

His children were

1. Abraham.

The following account of the family of Abraham Parker will be found in Vol. XVI. of N. E. Gen. Register, p. 41 et seq.

Abraham Parker was the first of the family in this country. Of the date and locality of his birth there is no known evidence, but it is presumed that he came from Wilkshire in England. He first settled in Woburn, where he married Miss Rose Whitlock, November 18th, 1644. Was admitted freeman in 1645 and removed to Chelmsford, probably upon its incorporation in 1653, with his brothers Jacob, James and Joseph, a fifth brother John having settled about the same time at Shawsheen, now Andover. The homestead of Abraham Parker was set off to him September 29, 1662, and composed 24 acres near the middle of the town. He held several minor offices in the town, and his name appears frequently

as a member of various committees for town purposes. He died at Chelmsford August 12, 1685. His will, dated six days previous, is on file on Suffolk Probate Records, and was proved three years later before Sir Edmund Andros. His widow died Nov. 30, 1691. Her will is on file on Middlesex Probate Records. His children were baptized by the Rev. J. Fiske. Abraham, Jr., married Martha, daughter of John Livermore, of Watertown, July 15, 1682. His daughter Mary married her cousin James, son of Capt. James Parker. He was killed in Groton by the Indians, July 27, 1694. Moses Parker, brother of Abraham, Jr., married Abigail Hildreth. His son, Joseph Parker, was Lieutenant in a snow shoe company formed 1724, to operate against the Indians. His son, Lt. Colonel Moses Parker, was wounded at Bunker Hill and died a prisoner in Boston, July 4, 1775, aged 43 years.

Abel Parker was also at Bunker Hill and was severely wounded in the fight. March 14, 1778, was made Ensign in the Continental Army, and October, 1779, Lieutenant in the same; 1802, Judge of Probate. (See Collections of the N. H. Hist. Soc., Vol. III., p. 258.)

These facts are contributed by Hon. Francis J. Parker, of Boston.

Abraham Parker, Jr., was admitted into the Church April 23, 1710. He with his wife, Elizabeth Bradstreet, were of the one hundred and one members dismissed from the mother church to form its first colony. The East Precinct in Bradford, now the Church in Groveland, was incorporated June 17, 1726.

His son, Bradstreet Parker, born July 23, 1729, married about 1749-50 Miss Rebecca Balch, daughter of the distinguished Rev. Dr. Balch, who was once offered the Presidency of Harvard College. Rebecca Balch Parker was born August 9, 1729, and died May 6, 1790. Bradstreet Parker died April 8, 1809. Their children were:—

1. Benjamin, born 1751, died 1752.

2. Moses, born 1756, died 1837.
3. Hannah, born 1757, died 1783.
4. Benjamin, born 1759, died 1845.
5. Abigail, born 1763, died 1824.
6. Nathan, born 1765, died
7. Mary, born 1767, died
8. Bradstreet, born 1770, died 1798.
9. William Bradstreet, born 1772.
10. Elizabeth, born 1775.

Through the marriage of Abraham Parker to Miss Elizabeth Bradstreet, the Parkers were related to the Bradstreet family, and by the marriage of Bradstreet Parker to Miss Balch, to the family of Balchs.

The descendents of Abraham Parker have made honorable records in the military and civil history of New England and indeed their names are to be found in positions of honor north and south, east and west.

Benjamin Parker, A. M., M. D. was born in the old Parker homestead in Bradford, Mass. This old house was built by his grandfather, Abraham Parker, Jr., and is still standing and in the possession of the Parker family. Dr. Benjamin Parker was educated at Dummer Academy, then one of the most famous schools in New England. He was prepared for college by Master Moody, a very eminent teacher. He completed his education at the Universities of Harvard and Dartmouth. Soon after graduating in medicine he removed to Virginia, where he acquired a lucrative practice, considerable property and a most honorable record. Dr. Benjamin Parker married for his first wife a Mrs. Brown, of Virginia, who died soon after the birth of her first child, Maria Parker. This daughter married Governor Dimand, of Rhode Island. For his second wife he married Miss Hannah Moulton, of Atheuson, N. H., September 23, 1816. Dr. Benjamin Parker was a man of great ability and influence and of commanding presence, a friend of Dr. Benjamin Rush and of the Randolphs of Virginia, and was at one time thought of as a possible candidate for President

of the United States. Of the Parker family, Dr. Cogswell, of Bradford, has said: "They all had abundance and there was not a poor one among them. Dr. Benjamin Parker married well and was always a marked individual, a perfect gentleman of the old school, a faithful and honorable physician and a sincere and devout Christian. The arms of the Parker family have been carefully preserved. The crest is a leopard's head, guardant, erased at the neck; or, ducally gorged; ga. Arms; ga. A chevron between three leopards' heads; or. Supporters: two leopards' regardant ppr.; each gorged with a ducal coronet: gu. The motto is Dare to be Just. The same arms and motto are now held by Sir Thomas Parker, Earl of Macclesfield, England. Of Dr. W. Thornton Parker, his son, the following notices from the Boston Medical Journal of March 22, 1855, are slight tokens of his worth. They were written by his friend and classmate, Wm. Wallace Morland, A. M., M. D., of Boston, Mass.

By the death of Dr. Parker, both the Profession and the community have sustained a real loss. To eminent professional abilities he added that sound judgment, highly honorable feeling and exceeding kindness of heart, which, united, constitute the truly "*good physician.*" From early and intimate acquaintance with him we feel that we can speak with confidence of his attainments, his exertions for usefulness, his qualities of heart and mind. For many years "we have been friends together," and the sadness which the departure of a valued associate brings with it is mingled with an unusual amount of very grateful and pleasant reminiscence. Active and industrious in his habits, Dr. Parker established an extensive practice for himself, in South Botson, immediately after taking his medical degree. There are many in that portion of our city who can testify to his unflinching integrity, his entire devotion to the interests of those entrusted to his medical care, his acute discrimination of disease, and his faithfulness, to the very last of his career as a practitioner. To this trait, indeed, is much of his ill health, bitterly, ascribed. Overwork did a vast deal towards devel-

oping the slow but sure disease of which he died. Unwilling to yield, he struggled on, visiting his patients continuously, often leaving his bed for several successive nights, when ill able so to do. Compelled at last to quit an excellent practice and to resign the home comforts his industry had gathered, he sought health both in Cuba and by a residence of some months in Europe, but without avail. With a strong will and a large share of good spirits which once animated him, he toiled almost to the last day of his life, to supply the failure of the means formerly afforded by his professional exertions. Occupation was his life. He never seemed unhappy when employed. Pleasantly retired in a beautiful neighboring town, he wrought with pen and pencil, amid much physical trial, but surrounded with warm friends and delightful influences. To most of his medical brethren here, his skill as an artist is well known. We do not know, in the ranks of the profession, anyone who at all approached him in the art of delineation and design. In pen-drawing he was an adept; in coloring, his hand was unrivalled. We have seen his copies from the most splendid anatomical plates, which we literally prefer to the original. In sketching, as well as in copying, he was peculiarly felicitous. One of the most touching circumstances connected with our remarks upon this accomplishment, is the fact that the *last* work done by his hand was executed for the writer of this slight tribute to worth. These drawings, finished only a few days before his death, have a value that can attach to such works alone. He who could so use the pencil might find in it almost a support. By a medical man, especially in these days of minute investigation, the talent cannot be too highly estimated.

Constantly occupied through the past winter, and enjoying much of that social comfort which was ever grateful to him, he has at last gently passed from earth, solaced by the consolations and hopes of religion. Violent hemorrhage from the lungs was the final agent in the gradual process of dissolution. A first and comparatively slight attack, a fortnight since, when able to be about his house, was succeeded by pro-

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fuse bleeding shortly after. He slowly sank, and after a restless night on Sunday, 11th inst., went into a quiet sleep on Monday morning, from which he awoke in "the better land."

At a meeting of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, Monday evening, 12th inst., Dr. Storer referred to the decease of Dr. Parker, and offered the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*—That this Society has heard with regret of the decease of their late associate William T. Parker, M. D., who had endeared himself to many of his medical brethren by his high-minded, honorable conduct, and to a large circle of friends by his uniformly kind and faithful devotion to the duties of his calling, until compelled by declining health to relinquish them."

Voted, That the Secretary transmit to his widow this expression of our regret for his memory, with our deepest sympathy for her loss.

The following appreciative notice of Dr. Parker is taken from Vol. IX, Medical Communications of the Mass. Medical Society for 1855.

He had improved well his opportunities for study; and by gentlemanly manners, constant industry, and with the air and resolve of one who knew he should succeed, he very soon acquired an extensive practice in South Boston, where he chose his residence. It was a location where, at that time, a vast deal of labor had to be done for a comparatively small remuneration. But he was none the less ready and faithful for all that; and, when overwork began to undermine his health, he could not in season persuade himself to deny anyone, to favor himself. Compelled at last to relinquish a practice already lucrative, and to resign the home comforts his industry had gathered, he repaired to Cuba and afterwards to Italy, without any benefit; and then submitted to his fate. He retired to the beautiful village of Jamaica Plain. There, amid much physical suffering, and surrounded by warm friends and delightful influences, with cheerfulness and determination he toiled almost to the last

day of his life, to supply, in some measure, the means formerly derived from professional exertions, as well as to gratify his inbred thirst for occupation. He never seemed unhappy when employed. Happily he had uncommon skill, both with the pen and pencil. His accurate and highly-finished anatomical drawings are well known to most physicians in the vicinity of Boston. Indeed, he had a critical appreciation of art, as well as nice, practical skill; and his comments on the works of the great masters which he saw at Florence, show him to have been a true connoiseur. By great prudence, by the cheering sympathies of friends, and the sustaining influences of profound religious hope, his life was prolonged much beyond his own expectation; but at last profuse hemorrhage suddenly laid him low; and he died March 12, 1855, aged thirty-seven years.

✠ MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE. ✠

"For all the Saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,
Thy Name, O Jesu, be forever bless'd,
Alleluia!"

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